

HAWAII MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR LICENSURE
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where do I obtain an application for licensure?

In March 2005, the application will be posted on this web site. Applications will be accepted only after May 1, 2005. Licensing cannot commence until July 1, 2005.

2. How much will the licensing fees be?

The fees have not been determined at this time, but will be reflected on this web site in the near future.

3. How long will it take to receive a license?

As licensing cannot commence until July 1, 2005, this would be the earliest date that license numbers and indicia can be processed. For applicants who, in the month of May 2005, file a correct and complete application and satisfy applicable licensing requirements, the department will input licensing information and by close of business on July 1, 2005 the public database will reflect a current and active licensing status for such individuals. The license indicia (pocket i.d. card) should be received within 1 ½ weeks. For applicants who have deficiencies with their application or file in June 2005, the exact date of licensure and receipt of the pocket i.d. card cannot be determined at this time.

4. How do I qualify for licensure?

There are two (2) pathways to licensure consisting of the following:

(A) An individual who is certified as an NCC, CCMHC or CRC must:

- (i) Provide evidence that they hold a current, unencumbered certification;
- (ii) Provide evidence that they passed the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE), National Clinical Mental Health Counselors Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors (CCMHC), or Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification examination (CRC) **after January 1, 2000 and before July 1, 2005.** *If the examination was passed prior to January 1, 2000, see question 5.; and*
- (iii) Apply for licensure within the period May 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006. *Thereafter, application and licensure is subject to (B) below.*

******OR******

(B) Fulfill all of the following requirements:

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| A master's degree or doctoral degree from an accredited educational institution in counseling or an allied field related to the practice of mental health counseling |
| 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate level course work in the following areas with a minimum of three semester hours in each: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human growth and development• Social and cultural foundations• Counseling theories and applications• Group theory and practice• Career and lifestyle development• Appraisal of human behavior• Tests and measurements• Research and program evaluation• Professional orientation and ethics |
| At least two academic terms of supervised practicum intern experience for graduate credit of at least three semester hours or five quarter hours per academic term in a counseling setting with 300 hours of supervised contact. |
| 3,000 hours of post graduate direct counseling work with 100 hours of face to face clinical supervision within a two year period |
| Passed the National Certified Counselor Examination (NCE) |

5. With reference to item 4.(A)(ii), what is required if the certification examination was passed prior to January 1, 2000?

(A) Passage of the current NCE, CCMHC, or CRC is required by June 30, 2005. All Hawaii NCC's and CCMHC's who need to re-test should have already received the application from NBCC. Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRC's) should be receiving information from the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) on the Certified Rehabilitation Exam (CRE) and through the Hawaii Rehabilitation Counselors Association (HRCA) information for the NCE if a CRC wishes to re-test with the NCE.

(B) Why do I have to re-test?

The cut off of January 1, 2000 was set because that was the date the NCE, CRC, and CCMHC exams were last revised to reflect current education standards and practices of the profession. Hawaii's adoption of the post January 1, 2000 exams ensures the individual meets current education and practice standards to ensure minimal competency for the protection of the public.

(C) Test Dates:

(i) NCE (offered by NBCC):

Exam Date

October 23, 2004

January 22, 2005 (available to Hawaii residents only)

April 16, 2005 (non Hawaii residents)

(available to Hawaii residents only)

Application Deadline

Deadline passed, contact NBCC directly

***December 1, 2004**

November 15, 2004

***February 25, 2005**

***The above dates in red are new dates provided by NBCC for Hawaii residents only.**

(ii) CRC (offered by CRCC):

Exam Date

October 30, 2004

April 30, 2005

Application Date

Deadline passed, contact CRCC directly

November 15, 2004

(D) Contact information for NBCC and CRCC:

NBCC: <http://www.nbcc.org>.

Phone: (336) 547-0607

CRCC: <http://www.crccertification.com>

Phone: (847) 394-2104

(E) What if my certification was obtained prior to January 1, 2000, but I do not re-test by June 30, 2005?

While an individual may take issue with re-testing, the only remaining pathway to licensure is then, meeting all the specific requirements shown in 4.(B). This may prove more onerous for an individual. If an individual's education and or experience is less than that specified in 4.(B), the individual would not be eligible for licensure. Also, if deemed eligible, only the NCE examination is used for licensing purposes. The CRC and CCMHC examinations will not be recognized examinations for licensure purposes after July 1, 2005.

6. What if I am licensed in another state as a counselor?

We have no reciprocity agreements with any State at this time. An individual would need to apply under one of the pathways described in 4.

7. How can I obtain a copy of the licensing law?

Return to the home page and a link is provided to "SB2595CD1", where you may print the law.

8. After licensure, how often will I have to renew?

Renewal will be on a triennial basis, with the first renewal deadline occurring on June 30, 2008.

9. Will there be any continuing education requirements with licensure renewal?

No.

10. Does this law provide for third party payments (vendership)?

No. That is an entirely different issue.

11. How do I continue to get updated information?

This website will be updated as needed and the counseling organizations will provide additional information as it becomes available to its members.